



The Connecticut
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**Testimony of James Quick, Chair, CT State Independent Living Council
Before the Human Services Sub-Committee of the Appropriations Committee
February 18, 2009**

***H. B. No. 6365 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE 30, 2011, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.***

SILC OPPOSES- the elimination of state funding for Centers for Independent Living, and requests that funding be restored so that Centers for Independent Living can fully use the federal stimulus money that funds new programs and services for people with disabilities.

The **Philosophy of Independent Living** is to insure individuals with disabilities their civil and human rights by providing the needed information and resources they need to live and work in the community of their choice. Without Centers for Independent Living and the critical role they play in CT the state will be responsible for costly programs and more institutionalization of people with disabilities.

The outcome is two-fold, people who want to be more resourceful and independent cannot do so (now depending on state programs) instead taking away their civil rights and freedoms. The Boards of Directors of CT CILs is 100% volunteer, unlike the costly and complex management in most state programs and institutions. The bottom line is the cost savings in the state budget cut are not truthful, the outcome will be nonproductive and future costs to the state will be far greater.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee today and thank you for your past support of Independent Living.

